

# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

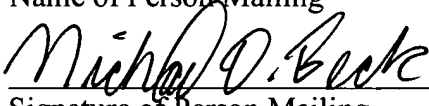
|                                     |   |                            |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| In re application of: Boyd et al.   | ) |                            |
|                                     | ) |                            |
| Application No.: not yet assigned   | ) | Examiner: Not yet assigned |
| Divisional of Serial No. 09/794,873 | ) |                            |
|                                     | ) |                            |
| Filed: March 19, 2004               | ) |                            |
|                                     | ) |                            |
| DEVICES AND APPARATUS FOR           | ) |                            |
| TREATING A VERTEBRAL BODY           | ) | March 19, 2004             |

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P. O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully submit the following preliminary amendment.

"Express mail" mailing label number EV 389959275 US  
 Date of Deposit March 19, 2004  
 I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the  
 United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee"  
 service under 37 CFR §1. 10 on the date indicated above and is addressed  
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Michael D. Beck  
 Name of Person Mailing  
  
 Signature of Person Mailing